

**Kask, Bobbie**

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**From:** CRESTWOOD MANOR INC <crestwoodmanor@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:17 PM  
**To:** AppropriationTestimony; Brian Sullivan  
**Subject:** Testimony on DSS Budget

TESTIMONY OF Debra A. Duch, Crestwood Manor, LLC, Norwich  
IN OPPOSITION TO  
HB-6350- AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BEINNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, AND  
OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE.

Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Debra Duch. I am the owner and administrator of Crestwood Manor, a Residential Care Home in Norwich. I am unable to attend today's meeting but want to offer my strong opposition to the Governor's Budget, specifically the capping of residential care home rates and the elimination of the small partial rate increases from last year.

The state had capped our rates for three years. This means we had income from 2009 paying bills for 2012. There has been significant increases in food, insurances, oil, gas, electric rates, etc. I had to replace a furnace, a stove, and a freezer during this time period. These items alone were \$12,000.00. At this time, my daily rate of \$65.28 which was below the state average.

In July, my rate went to \$79.25, which is still below the state average. With this increase, I was able to give raises to my staff after 3 years of no raises. I was also able to replace part of the roof. Taking this increase away will put great restraints on residential care homes. I for one will not be able to continue with maintenance on the facility such as replacing windows, painting the building, and replace floors.

The increase in payroll taxes alone will put a great burden on us. The amount of payroll taxes that I pay each month has gone up by \$1500.00.

Residential Care Homes offer a great service to the State of Connecticut. Without us, many mentally disabled people would be on the streets. We take our people to doctor appointments, shopping, serve 3 homemade meals a day, 3 snacks a day, do their laundry, housekeeping, supervise their medications, and offer companionship.

I implore the Committee to raise our rates so we can continue to work with the State in giving our homeless, mentally disabled and the lonely a safe place to live.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely your,

Debra A. Duch  
Owner/Administrator  
Crestwood Manor, LLC  
90 Broad Street  
Norwich, Ct 06360  
860-889-8800